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Approved For Release 2002/01/16 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000490030001-5

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 22 MAY 50

SUBJECT Military Training for North Korean Youth

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A
PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

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2. In January and February 1950, military training for young men 18-30 years old was intensified in cities and in rural areas, particularly in villages near the 38th Parallel. City trainees, who are recommended by political parties, social organizations, and national associations, are instructed in fundamentals of firing and must actually practice at least once a month. The weapons used are Japanese Model-38 rifles and dummy practice grenades. The city youth are fairly enthusiastic because of curiosity about military procedures and weapons.

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Class. Changed To: TS	3 C
Auth. 10713	
Date: 450678	By: 025

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3. In the villages, where all members of the Farmers' Union are required to receive training, enforcement of training has been nominal because of the great distance from the farms to the training ground and the reluctance of the farmers. Many farmers fear that compulsory military instruction is an indication that in war-time they will be used at the front before regular troops.
4. The government explanation for the increased military emphasis, given by CH'OE Chu-in (崔周仁), chairman of the Chatan-ni Cooperative Society of Yonchon (127-04, 38-06) County at a meeting of the Newspaper Reading Association, was that the training is a counter measure against invasion of North Korea by the reactionary South Korean government and a Japanese army.

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